

Appl. No. 09/827,256
Amdt. dated December 30, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 1, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 5, 8, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 32, 34-42, 45, 47, 48, 53, and 54 remain pending. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-16, 19-23, 26, 28-31, 33, 43, 44, 46, and 49-52 have been canceled; claims 5, 11, 17, 18, 24, 27, 32, 45, 47, and 53 have been amended; no new claims have been added.

All claims, as amended herein, recite subject matter previously indicated as being patentable over the cited art. The remaining claims have been canceled solely to expedite prosecution of this application.

Application Data Sheet

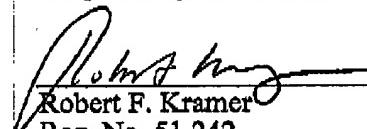
An Application Data Sheet is herewith submitted to correct the order of inventorship of this application. No inventors have been removed or added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert F. Kramer
Reg. No. 51,242

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400 // Fax: 415-576-0300
MDB/RFK:nap
60093599 v1